

# 孤島 謎 1

KOTOU PUZZLE

ORION BLADE  
avarus

原作

有栖川有栖  
ALICE ARISUGAWA

漫画

鈴木有布子  
YUFUKO SUZUKI





KOTOU PUZZLE  
PLACE MATSUNOBU YUUKI / MASAHI



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# 孤島 KOTOU PUZZLE

PROLOGUE

MY NAME  
IS ALICE  
ARTSUGAWA.

I'M A 2ND  
YEAR LAW  
STUDENT  
AT SITO  
UNIVERSITY.

JUST  
WAITING  
AROUND

SFX: SHUFFLE



IT SEEMS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
ALWAYS JUST  
LOUNGING  
AROUND,  
ALICE.

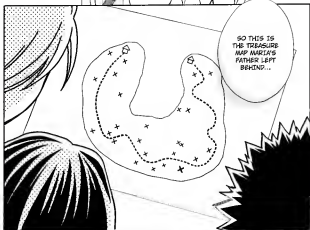
OH MARIA,  
PERFECT  
TIME-

BOAKI-SAN  
AND THE  
OTHERS ARE  
ALREADY  
WAITING AT  
LILA!

MARIA ARIMA  
2ND YEAR  
LAW STUDENT









YUP,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

SO, ARE  
THOSE  
"X" MARKS  
WHERE  
THE MOAI  
ARE  
LOCATED?

**JIRO ODAKO**

3RD YEAR  
ECONOMICS  
MAJOR

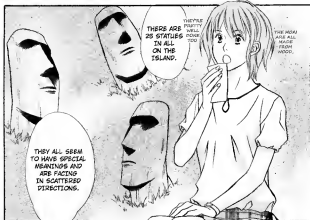


BUT IT  
SURE LOOKS  
INTERESTING.  
IT'S SOME  
KIND OF  
PUZZLE,  
RIGHT?

EVEN AFTER  
LOOKING AT  
THIS THING,  
I STILL  
DON'T GET  
IT...



**SHIHAI  
MOCHIZUKI**  
3RD YEAR  
ECONOMICS  
MAJOR



THERE ARE  
28 STATUES  
IN ALL  
ON THE  
ISLAND.

THEY'RE  
PRETTY  
WELL  
DOONE  
TOO

THE MOAI  
ARE ALL  
MADE  
FROM  
WOOD.

THEY ALL SEEM  
TO HAVE SPECIAL  
MEANINGS AND  
ARE FACING  
IN SCATTERED  
DIRECTIONS.



AAAAARGH!

DAMMIT!  
I WANNA  
GO TOO!

YOU SHOULD'VE  
TOLD US  
EARLIER THAT  
YOU WERE GONNA  
GO TO YOUR  
GRANPA'S  
VILLA!

YEAH,  
THIS IS  
A...

THIS  
"MOAI PUZZLE"  
SOUNDS LIKE A  
JOB FOR THE  
MEMBERS OF  
THE MYSTERY  
NOVEL CLUB!

**JIRO EGAMI**  
4TH YEAR  
LITERATURE MAJOR,  
PHILOSOPHY  
DEPARTMENT

# ONE WEEK TREASURE HUNT ON A TROPICAL ISLAND!

OVER  
HINDS  
IT!

THOSE  
BONES ARE  
SPOOKY.

**MEMPHIS**

UM, THAT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE, MOCHI-SAN.

I'LL FIND THE TREASURE FOR YOU GUYS JUST BY LOOKING AT THIS MAP!

BUT WHY?



BUT I GUESS THAT'S TOO BAD, SEEING AS YOU TWO ALREADY HAVE PLANS.

**Guess I'm having fun for the four of us~**



ACTUALLY, MY COUSIN TRIED TO TAKE ON THE TREASURE HUNT THREE SUMMERS AGO.

IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF UNCOVERING SOMETHING BIG, BUT...

AS A STARTING POINT, IT SEEMS WE SHOULD HEAD TOWARDS THE MOAT.

BUT THE PERSON WHO TOLD ME THAT...

WHAT HAPPENED?





THE MOST  
PUZZLE THAT  
HAS BEEN  
THE REPEAT  
OF SO MANY  
CHALLENGERS.

BUT...



SEARCHING  
FOR THE  
TREASURE  
WITH  
BLOOD-  
THIRSTY  
EYES.



THIS GUY  
IS CALM  
AND LEVEL-  
HEADED.

WITH  
EGAMI-SAN  
ON OUR SIDE,  
WE MIGHT  
HAVE A CHANCE  
AT SOLVING  
THIS PUZZLE.

WHAT  
MARICA SAID  
EARLIER.

SHE PROBABLY  
SAID BECAUSE  
SHE KNOWS  
I FEEL THE  
SAME WAY.



THIS PUZZLE  
ADDICT LEFT  
BEHIND HIS  
WILL, AND A  
SINGLE  
TREASURE  
MAP.

CROSSWORDS,  
ANZES,  
NUMBER  
GAMES,  
JIGSAW  
PUZZLES...



MARIA'S  
GRANDFATHER  
TETSUNOSUKE  
ARIMA, DIED  
FROM A STROKE  
50 YEARS AGO.



LOW TIDE  
CAPE

LOOKOUT  
MANOR

HIGH TIDE  
CAPE

GYORAKU  
PLACE

EBOSHI  
ROCK

VIEWING  
PLATFORM

THE  
GAZEBO

TWIN  
ROCKS

CANDLE ROCK

"THOSE WHO  
SOLVE THIS  
EVOLVING PUZZLE  
WILL INHERIT  
THE DIAMONDS  
I HAVE HIDDEN."

THIS,  
IS THE  
EVOLVING  
PUZZLE!

KASHIKI  
ISLAND

THERE IT  
IS!  
KASHIKI  
ISLAND!



SFX: RUSH

ONLY  
5

THE MEMBERS  
OF THE EITO  
UNIVERSITY  
MYSTERY  
NOVEL CLUB  
(EMC),

ARE ON  
THEIR WAY TO  
AN ISLAND 80  
KILOMETERS  
SOUTH OF  
ANAMI  
ISLAND.

I'M SO  
EXCITED!  
IT'S BEEN  
THREE YEARS  
SINCE I  
LAST CAME  
HERE!

MARIA ARIMA  
2ND YEAR  
LAW STUDENT

IT'S BECAUSE  
GOING ON A  
REAL-LIFE  
TREASURE  
HUNT ISN'T  
SOMETHING  
YOU CAN  
TAKE LIGHTLY.

JIRO EGAMI  
4TH YEAR  
LITERATURE MAJOR  
PHILOSOPHY  
DEPARTMENT

LCA -

THE TEAM IS  
EXCITED FOR  
THEIR ONE  
WEEK STAY  
ON A  
TROPICAL  
ISLAND.

HEADING TO  
A VILLA  
OWNED BY  
MARIA'S  
UNCLE  
RYUSUKE  
ARIMA.

HOWEVER,  
THE REASON  
FOR THEIR  
EXCITEMENT  
ISN'T JUST  
BECAUSE OF  
THE EXOTIC  
SCENERY.

LCA

USE

.....

IF YOU'RE  
JUST GOING  
TO COMPLAIN,  
THEN GO  
INSIDE AND  
TAKE A REST!

SEASICK

I FEEL  
HORRIBLE

...  
AND  
DURING  
THE FULL  
COLOR  
PAGES,  
TOO.

W- E

UGHH...

JUST A  
LITTLE  
REST

A  
LITTLE  
BITTER

THE DIAMOND  
WAS  
ACTUALLY A  
GIFT FOR MY  
GRANDMOTHER  
BEFORE SHE  
PASSED AWAY.

I MEAN  
HIDING  
AWAY A 500  
MILLION YEN  
DIAMOND ON  
THAT SMALL  
ISLAND.

ALICE  
ARTSUGAWA  
KITO UNIVERSITY  
2ND YEAR  
LAW STUDENT

EVEN SO,  
WASN'T YOUR  
UNCLE A  
BIT CRAZY,  
MARIA?

SPENDING A 5 MILLION DOLLARS

YLP!

NOBODY'S BEEN  
ABLE TO SOLVE  
THAT PUZZLE  
FOR FIVE YEARS.  
THAT'S WHERE  
WE, EAC,  
WILL  
SUCCEED!

SO I GUESS  
WE SHOULD  
LOOK FOR  
IT WITH  
BLOOD-  
THIRSTY  
EYES.  
RIGHT?

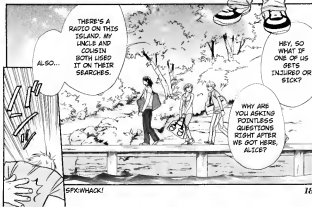




SO THE  
NEXT BOAT  
COMES IN  
FIVE DAYS,  
HUH.



WE'RE  
FINALLY  
HERE -



THERE'S A  
RAPID ON THIS  
ISLAND. MY  
UNCLE AND  
COUSIN  
BOTH LIVED  
IT ON THEIR  
SEARCHES.

ALSO...

HEY, SO  
WHAT IF  
ONE OF US  
GETS  
INJURED OR  
SICK?

WHY ARE  
YOU ASKING  
POINTLESS  
QUESTIONS  
RIGHT AFTER  
WE GOT HERE,  
ALICE?

SPKWHACK!





I HAVE.



SO I SEE  
YOU'VE  
COME BACK  
AGAIN,  
REIKO-SAN.



REIKO-SAN  
IS SUCH A  
WONDERFUL  
PERSON,  
RIGHT?



I'LL GET  
YOU ALL  
SOMETHING  
TO DRINK, SO  
PLEASE  
RELAX.



REMEMBER MY  
COUSIN WHO  
DIED ON THIS  
ISLAND 3  
YEARS AGO?

REIKO-SAN  
WAS MY  
COUSIN'S...  
WAS HIROTO-  
SAN'S  
FIANCÉE.

HIROTO ARIMA



IT'D LIKE  
TO SAY  
THAT  
BEAUTY  
RUNS IN  
THE FAMILY!

UNFORTUNATELY,  
REIKO-SAN AND  
I AREN'T  
RELATED BY  
BLOOD.



SHE BECAME  
UNABLE TO  
SPEAK...AND  
IT WAS JUST  
REALLY HARD  
TO LOOK  
AT HER.

SHE  
DEVELOPED  
NEUROSIS  
AND WAS  
HOSPITALIZED  
SOON AFTER.

AT THE TIME,  
HIS DEATH  
CAME TO HER  
AS A REALLY  
BIG SHOCK.



SO THEY COULD  
OVERCOME  
HIDEITO-SAN'S  
DEATH  
TOGETHER,  
AS "FAMILY".

AND A YEAR  
LATER, HE  
TOOK HER  
IN AS HIS  
ADOPTED  
DAUGHTER,

AFTER THAT,  
MY UNCLE  
WAITED FOR  
HER TO  
RECOVER,



I GUESS I  
SHOULDN'T  
GET TOO  
EXCITED ABOUT  
THE TREASURE  
HUNT WHEN IN  
FRONT OF  
REIKO-SAN...

EVEN SHE  
HAS A  
DARK SIDE...

I THINK  
IT WAS  
GOOD  
FOR HER.

96







HE DROWNED  
OUT AT SEA  
LATER THAT  
NIGHT...



HE WANTED  
TO BRING  
HIS LOVELY  
FIANCÉE TO  
THIS ISLAND,  
BUT...

HE FELT  
LIKE HE  
HAD FOUND  
THE PERFECT  
PLACE TO  
LIVE.

AT THAT  
TIME HE  
SENT FOR  
REIKO-  
SAN.



HE WAS A  
REALLY SWEET  
GUY, AND WE'D  
ALWAYS SPEND  
THAT ONE WEEK  
IN THE SUMMER  
TOGETHER...

SINCE HE  
WAS SUCH  
A GOOD  
SWIMMER  
WE COULDN'T  
BELIEVE IT  
AT FIRST...

IT WAS  
A REAL  
SHOCK  
BACK THEN.



NOW'S NO  
TIME TO  
BE GETTING  
EMOTIONAL!

RIGHT?

CHEER UP,  
MISS  
DETECTIVE.

WE'RE  
HERE TO  
AVENGE YOUR  
COUSIN,  
RIGHT?



ALRIGHT,  
SO IT'S  
DECIDED  
THEN.



RIGHT!  
MISS  
DETECTIVE  
WILL GIVE  
IT HER ALL!



OH

THERE'S  
THREE  
BICYCLES  
WE CAN  
USE.



WE USED TO  
ALWAYS GO  
TO THE  
GYORAKU  
PLACE ON  
HIGH-TIDE  
CAPS.

YOU GUYS  
HAVE BIKES  
ON THIS  
ISLAND?



WE'LL TAKE  
HIDETO-SAN'S  
ADVICE AND  
STARTING FROM  
TOMORROW,

CHECK OUT  
THE BEARINGS  
OF ALL THE  
MOATS ON THE  
MAP, ONE BY  
ONE!





SATOME  
INUKAI  
TOSHIYUKI'S  
WIFE

TOSHIYUKI  
INUKAI  
RYUSUKE'S YOUNGER  
BROTHER, OWNER  
OF THE INUKAI  
RESTAURANT CHAIN

KANGO MAKIHARA  
RYUSUKE'S BROTHER-  
IN-LAW, MANAGER  
OF AN ACCOUNTING  
FIRM

HEY MARIA-  
SAMI! HAVEN'T  
SEEN YOU IN  
ABOUT THREE  
YEARS!

SO, IS  
THIS THE  
BOYFRIEND  
WE'VE ALL  
BEEN HEARING  
ABOUT?



SUMIKO  
MAKIHARA  
KANGO'S  
DAUGHTER

JUNJI  
MAKIHARA  
SUMIKO'S HUSBAND,  
OWNER OF A  
CASH BUSINESS



HE'S MY  
UNCLE'S  
ILLEGITIMATE  
SON.

IS INUKAI-  
SAN YOUR  
UNCLE'S...

YOUR  
COUNCIL  
MEMBER?



BUT HE WAS  
WELCOMED  
INTO THE  
ARIMA  
FAMILY,  
AND COMES  
TO VISIT  
LOOKOUT  
MANOR  
OFTEN.

OH MY,  
WHEN DID  
IT BECOME  
SO LIVELY  
AROUND  
HERE?







DRINKING PARTIES ARE A BIT SCARY...

WELL THAT GOT HIM ALL EXCITED.

WELL I DID BRING A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH WITH ME!

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED OVER SOME DRINKS!

AH...



LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE GOT THE BASICS DOWN.

HMM, AIMING STRAIGHT FOR A SPECIFIC GOAL INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DO IT ALL AT ONCE...



ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN DO BESIDES THIS PUZZLE?



THOSE GUYS OWED

YOU SAID MARI'S FRIENDS WERE COMING SO I THOUGHT WE'D BE HAVING COLLEGE GIRLS OVER!

THERE'S NOT MUCH ON THIS ISLAND, BUT PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY HERE.

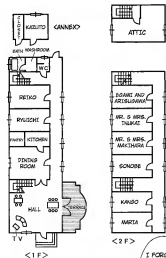
**KAZUTO  
ARIAMA**  
MARI'S COUSIN,  
COLLEGE STUDENT

**RYŪICHI  
ARIAMA**  
MARI'S UNCLE,  
STATIONERY  
COMPANY CEO



PLEASE COME INTO THE DINING HALL, EVERYONE!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU ALL WAITING. DINNER IS READY!





HIRAKAWA-  
SENSEI, THE  
ARTIST. HE'S  
FROM TOKYO  
TOO.

WHO  
LIVES  
OVER  
THERE?

LET'S  
STOP BY  
GYORAKU  
PLACE  
ON THE  
WAY.



HOW MANY  
TIMES DO I HAVE  
TO TELL YOU,  
THIS ISN'T  
THE PLACE  
TO BE TALKING  
ABOUT  
MONEY!

DOWN  
BELOW!

WASN'T  
THAT  
COMING  
DOWN?

?



IT'S HARD  
FOR ME TO  
ASK HIM  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.  
YOU SHOULD  
ASK HIM!

HE'D  
SAID YES  
IF HIS  
LOVELY  
DAUGHTER  
ASKED HIM.

YOUR FATHER  
IS IN A  
GOOD MOOD  
RIGHT NOW.  
SO WHY  
SHOULDN'T  
WE TALK  
TO HIM?



IF HE  
DIDN'T, THEN  
HE WOULDN'T  
BE HAVE  
ANYTHING TO  
EAT OR-

EVERY YEAR  
HE COMES  
AROUND TO  
LOOKOUT  
HANOI WHEN  
PEOPLE COME  
OVER.

NO  
WAY!

IN THE  
MORNING WE'RE  
GONNA GO  
ON THE BIKES  
AND LOOK  
FOR THE  
MOAI, SOUND  
GOOD?

HEY,  
LET'S GO  
SWIMMING  
IN THE  
AFTERNOON.





WHAT DOES  
MAKIHARA-  
SAN DO?

BUT HE  
OWNS A  
LOT OF  
URBAN  
PROPERTY  
THAT MAKES  
HIM VERY  
WEALTHY.

HE DOESN'T  
HAVE A  
GIANT  
BUSINESS  
OR ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT.

NOPH, HE  
RUNS A TINY  
SNACK  
BUSINESS.  
TOTALLY  
DIFFERENT FROM  
THE INUKAI  
RESTAURANT  
CHAIN!

SEEING A  
FATHER AND  
SON-IN-LAW  
HAVE SUCH  
A SOUR  
RELATIONSHIP  
MAKES MY  
STOMACH  
HURT.



OH, WHEN YOU  
GO TO SLEEP  
TRY TURNING  
OFF THE LIGHTS  
AND LISTENING  
TO THE WAVES.

THE  
ISLAND IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
WONDERFUL  
AT NIGHT.



HE DOESN'T  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
JUNJI-SAN  
AT ALL...

A  
A  
H



LISTENING  
TO ALL OF  
THAT HAS  
MADE ME  
TIRED.

WE KNOW  
WHAT WE'RE  
DOING  
TOMORROW,  
SO LET'S GET  
SOME  
SLEEP.





IT CAN BE A  
VERY LONELY AND  
FRIGHTENING  
FEELING, BUT...

IT'S LIKE  
THIS SMALL  
ISLAND  
BECOMES  
THE WORLD,  
AND IT  
FEELS LIKE  
YOU'RE  
DRIFTING OUT  
INTO SPACE.



EVEN THOUGH  
I'M SMALLER  
THAN A SPECK  
OF DUST, I  
STILL EXIST.

AS THE  
INVITING  
SOUND OF THE  
WAVES SLOWLY  
DRIFTS AWAY...

IT'S A  
MYSTERIOUS  
FEELING.

LITTLE BY  
LITTLE ALL OF  
THE FEELINGS  
INSIDE OF YOU  
START TO FLOW  
OUT,

AND AT THE  
SAME TIME IT  
FEELS LIKE  
YOUR BODY IS  
GENTLY  
FADING AWAY.

I CAN HEAR  
THE RUSH OF  
THE OCEAN.



LISTENING  
TO THE  
SOUND OF  
THE WAVES...

MARIA'S  
UNDER THE  
SAME ROOF  
I AM...

IT'S KIND  
OF A  
STRANGE  
FEELING...



I KNOW  
OF THREE  
GUYS  
WHO LIKE  
MARIA.



THIS ISLAND  
BECOMES  
THE WORLD,

AND IT FEELS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
DRIFTING  
OFF INTO  
SPACE....

WHAT THE  
HELL AM I  
THINKING...



WOW...

I CAN SEE  
WHY THEY  
CALL THIS  
PLACE THE  
"VIEWING  
PLATFORM".



AND THIS  
GUY,



THAT ONE  
ON THE  
NORTH IS  
CALLED  
BROSHE  
ROCK.



THAT TALL  
ROCK TO  
THE SOUTH  
IS CALLED  
CANDLE ROCK,  
AND THOSE  
TWO SHORT  
ONES ARE  
THE TWIN  
ROCKS.



YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE.

IF IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FACING THE MANOR, IT'S A BIT SLOPPILY DONE.

DON'T IT SEEM A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO THE NORTH?



I WONDER IF THIS IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING SOMETHING BIG...

IT'S WELL CARVED, TOO.

THIS ONE SEEMS BIGGER THAN THE SURROUNDING ONES.



IT'S FACING TOWARDS, LOOKOUT MANOR?



WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING IN COLLEGE?

I'M STUDYING LAW, AND SO TO BE AN ACTOR.

...THE SAME AS SUMANO-SAN, TOO.



ITARU HIRAKAWA  
LANDSCAPE ARTIST

WELCOME EVERYONE. ARE YOU ALREADY A COLLEGE STUDENT, MARIA-CHAN?





I PROBABLY BECAME INTERESTED IN THEM ONE MOSTLY TO MARIA'S GRANDFATHER.



I WAS THINKING ABOUT TAKING A PICTURE AND MAKING IT INTO A PUZZLE FOR KAZUTO-KUN.

AFTER IT'S DONE,

DO YOU LIKE PUZZLES TOO, SENSEI?



SONOBE-SENSEI JOINED US YESTERDAY, SO IT'S ALMOST ALL THE SAME FACES FROM THREE YEARS AGO.

BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE COME OVER!

SENSEI, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH US TONIGHT AT LOOKOUT MANOR?



BY BOAT? YOU GUYS HAVE A BOAT?

THAT'S RIGHT!



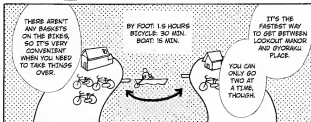
I GUESS I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT.

I HAVEN'T SET FOOT IN THERE THESE PAST FIVE DAYS.

DO YOU STILL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO BAIT?

REIKO-SAN CAME AND DROPPED OFF SOME THINGS BY BOAT, SO I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

THANKS FOR ASKING.









HEY  
EGAMI-SAN,  
WHERE'S  
MARIA? DID  
SHE GO  
SOMEWHERE?



BUWAAH!

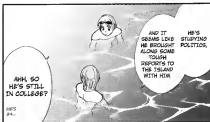


THESE TWO  
REALLY ARE  
OPPOSITES.  
HMM. SATOMI-  
SAN IS JUST  
SITTING OUT  
ON THE  
BEACH...

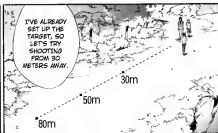


CAN'T  
SEE THEM  
SHE WENT  
OFF WITH  
TOSHIYUKI-  
SAN  
SOMEWHERE  
OUT THERE.













I LOOKED  
AT HIS FACE  
AS HE  
WAS PULLING  
THE TRIGGER.



DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?

IF IT WAS  
ME DOING  
THE SHOOTING,  
I WOULDN'T  
DO IT, SO...

SERIOUSLY



HE IS NOT  
FOOLING  
AROUND...  
HE SEEMS  
PRETTY  
SERIOUS.

I'LL GO  
AND SET  
UP THE  
TARGETS  
FOR YOU  
GUYS.



"DAMNIT"

AS HE  
WAS ABOUT  
TO SHOOT  
HE KEPT  
ON REPEATING  
THE SAME  
THING...

SOMETHING  
IS HEADED  
THIS WAY...



THERE'S A  
STRANGE WIND  
BLOWING.



The Answer Is  
**Blowin'**  
in the  
**Wind**

CHAPTER  
TWO









THAT'S  
ENOUGH!  
WE'VE HEARD  
PLENTY  
ALREADY!

W  
H  
O

SHE DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TOOK  
TO BE A NURSE, SO AFTER A  
YEAR SHE QUIT HER UNIVERSITY,  
THEN SHE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL  
AND SUDDENLY DECIDED TO PICK  
UP LAW, AND THEN LATER ON SHE  
GOT REALLY INTERESTED IN THE  
FINE ARTS AND DECIDED TO  
ACT AS HIRAKAWA-SENSEI'S  
MODEL FOR A WHILE...

SHE WAS  
MID-POPULAR  
BACK IN  
MIDDLE AND  
HIGH SCHOOL.

SHE HAD  
LIKE A DOZEN  
BOYFRIENDS...

AT LEAST ONE FOR  
EVERY DAY OF  
THE WEEK!



"I'M THE  
SAME AS  
SHIMADA-  
SAN..."

SO IT  
WAS THAT  
KIND OF  
RELATION-  
SHIP...

"AAH,  
I SEE..."



LET'S  
GO BACK

HIRAKAWA-  
SENSEI IS  
ALREADY...

SORRY,  
I'M DEVOTED  
TO JUNJI-  
SAN RIGHT  
NOW.

NEVERMIND,  
IT'S  
NOTHING.



THE  
THING  
ABOUT  
HER  
IS...

DOES THAT  
SEEM?

IT'S ABOUT  
WHEN SHE  
WAS WITH  
HIRAKAWA-  
SENSEI...

HEY, I  
CAN'T TALK  
ABOUT  
THAT!

IT'S  
EMBARRASSING,  
AND BESIDES,  
IT WOULD BE  
BAD IF MY  
HUSBAND  
HEARD US!





HE HAS A  
LICENSE  
FOR SHOOTING  
CLAY TARGETS.



SO YOU  
TWO WENT  
SHOOTING  
TODAY?

IF YOU  
HAVE THE  
CHANCE, YOU  
SHOULD HAVE  
INUKAI-SAN  
TEACH YOU  
GUYS NEXT  
TIME.



IT'S  
FINE!

BUT DO  
YOU KNOW  
HOW TO  
PROPERLY  
HANDLE A  
GUN, KAZUTO-  
SAN?

IT WOULD  
BE BAD IF IT  
ACCIDENTALLY  
WENT OFF!

TI  
A  
TI  
A  
SPRING



HADN'T ASKED  
ABOUT THE  
LOAN YET.

JUST ASK  
ALREADY,  
JUNJI-SAN!

CHW

HE  
STILL...

CHW

CHW



H  
A  
H  
A

THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
IT WOULD  
MAKE THE  
ARIMA  
FAMILY  
LOOK BAD!





IT  
STARTED  
RAINING...  
WHY DOES  
THE STORM  
HAVE TO COME  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE  
NIGHT?

KAZUTO,  
PLEASE  
BRING ALL  
OF THE  
BICYCLES  
INSIDE.

WELLSAWA--  
SENSEI TOO

GOT  
IT.

WE CAN  
BOARD UP  
THE WINDOWS  
TOMORROW  
BEFORE THE  
TYPHOON  
COMES.  
IT  
PROBABLY  
WON'T COME  
TONIGHT, SO  
WE HAVE  
A BIT OF  
TIME.



YEAH, I  
SECOND  
THAT.



IT'LL BE  
SAFE IF  
YOU STAY  
HERE.

THINK  
OF IT  
AS A  
SHORT  
VACATION.



I GUESS  
I WAS LUCKY  
TO HAVE BEEN  
INVITED  
HERE.

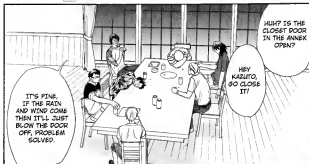
SENSEI,  
LET'S DRINK  
THROUGH THE  
STORM  
TONIGHT.



MAZU



!?













WHAT'S WITH THESE GUYS...



SPKSHAKE



IT'S  
STORMING  
OUTSIDE...



WHAT  
TIME IS  
IT NOW?

ALMOST  
TWO.

YOU WERE  
ASLEEP JUST  
A SECOND  
AGO...

WHAT  
THE-

HEY ALICE,  
YOU'LL  
CATCH A  
COLD!

SHAKE  
SHAKE







*I HAVE  
ALREADY LAID  
ATOP THE  
MAGNIFICENT  
BOSOM OF  
EARTH.*

*THOSE OF  
YOU WHO HAVE  
WALKED DOWN  
THIS PATH...*

*WHAT LIES  
AHEAD  
IS THIS.*

*DRINK UP  
AND LISTEN  
TO WHAT I  
HAVE TO SAY.*

SOURCE: "RUBAIYAT", RYOSAKU OGAWA TRANSLATED FROM THE IWANAMI-COLLECTION









THAT  
PERSON WAS  
HIRAKAWA-  
SENSSEI.

BUT  
THERE WAS  
A TIME WHEN  
SHE WAS IN  
LOVE WITH  
ANOTHER  
MAN.

SUMAKO-SAN  
IS TOTALLY  
DEVOTED TO  
JUNJI-SAN.



THAT FOLLOWING  
YEAR SHE STARTED  
TO MODEL FOR  
HIS PAINTINGS.

THEY'VE HAD A STRANGE  
RELATIONSHIP SINCE  
THAT SUMMER FOUR  
YEARS AGO.

SHE'D SAY THINGS  
LIKE SHE'S OFF  
TO SOLVE THE MOORE  
PUZZLE, AND SHE'D  
BE BY HIS SIDE  
FROM DAWN TO DUSK.



BUT THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP  
STARTED TO  
COOL OFF,  
AND NOW SHE'S  
WITH JUNJI-  
SAN.

IT SEEMS  
LIKE THEY  
KEPT MEETING  
FOR A COUPLE  
OF MONTHS  
AFTER HE  
WENT BACK  
TO TOKYO.

BUT MY UNCLE,  
FATHER, SONOBE-  
SENSSEI...ALL OF  
THE OLDER FOLK  
WERE COMPLETELY  
UNWARE OF  
ANY OF THIS.

MARIA AND  
I GOT WHAT  
WAS GOING  
ON RIGHT  
AWAY.













AFTER THAT,  
JUST REACH  
IN AND UNDO  
THE LOCK.

SOMEWHERE  
NEAR THE  
LOCK.

YOU SHOULD  
MAKE AN  
OPENING,



SFX: SLAM

SFX: BURN!

IT'S  
OPEN!



WOW, IT'S  
TOUGH TO  
UNLOCK.



UML... DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?

IT'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE, THAT  
LOCK IS  
BROKEN...







STEP



NEITHER  
OF THEM...  
HAVE A  
PULSE.

ARE YOU  
SAYING  
THEY'RE  
DEAD!?



NO  
WAY!





WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?











HOWEVER,

I AGREE  
WITH THAT.

LET'S TALK  
ABOUT WHAT  
WENT ON HERE  
AFTER WE'VE  
GONE DOWN-  
STAIRS.



SO WE CAN  
FIND OUT  
WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED  
HERE.

BEFORE  
WE MOVE  
THE BODIES.

I THINK  
IT WOULD BE  
BEST IF WE  
HAD SOMEONE  
LOOK  
INTO THE  
SCENE A LITTLE  
MORE.

IN OTHER  
WORDS, A  
MEDICAL  
INVESTIGATION.

CHAPTER  
THREE







KANO  
MACHIBATE'S  
CAUSE OF  
DEATH WAS  
EXTERNAL  
BLOOD LOSS.

THE  
ESTIMATED  
TIME OF DEATH  
WAS BETWEEN  
10:30PM-11:00P  
ALMOST AND  
IT BEGAN THIS  
MORNING.

ACCORDING  
TO HONOUR-  
SENSEI'S  
ANALYSIS  
TAKEN TWO  
TO FOUR  
HOURS AFTER  
THE TWO  
DEED.



INSTEAD THAN  
EXTERNAL BLEEDING  
BLOOD LEAKED  
THROUGH THE  
OPENING IN THE  
SAC WHERE IT  
DROVE THE  
HEART AND  
STOPPED ITS  
FUNCTIONS.

THIS IS  
PRESUMABLY  
THE MANNER  
OF HER  
DEATH.

SPK WOODSH

SHUNGO  
MACHIBATE'S  
CAUSE OF  
DEATH WAS  
A PIERCING  
OF THE  
PERICARDIUM  
SAC CONTAINING  
THE HEART.



HAVE A  
LOOK AT  
THIS,  
BOAMS-SAN.

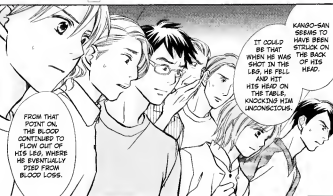
THERE'S  
A HAIR ON  
THE CORNER  
OF THIS  
TABLE.

THERE'S  
THE BACK  
DOOR AGAIN...



IN BOTH  
CASES, THE  
BULLETS  
SEEM TO NOT  
HAVE FULLY  
PENETRATED  
THROUGH  
EITHER OF  
THEIR BODIES.

SPK BLANDY





ARE YOU  
ABLE TO  
DETERMINE  
WHO WAS  
SHOT FIRST,  
AND WHO  
WAS THE  
FIRST TO  
DIE?



THANK  
YOU FOR  
ANSWERING  
OUR QUESTIONS.

I'M AFRAID  
THAT CAN'T  
BE DETER-  
MINED.

SFX: WHOOSH



IT WAS  
SUGGESTED  
THAT WE TRY  
TO PRESERVE  
THE CRIME  
SCENE UNTIL  
THE POLICE  
ARRIVE.

BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKELY  
THAT BOATS OR  
HELICOPTERS  
WOULD BE  
ABLE TO  
ARRIVE IN  
THIS TYPHOON.



SO THE TWO  
BODIES WERE  
LAI'D DOWN  
ON THE BED...

SFX: CLICK





.....



JUST  
WHAT WENT  
ON IN THAT  
ROOM...



WHATEVER  
HAPPENED  
ON THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR,

IT  
APPEARS TO  
HAVE BEEN  
A DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE, BUT...

IS THERE  
A CHANCE THAT  
THAT REALLY  
HAPPENED,  
SENSEI?



ESAMI-KUN,  
YOU'RE THE  
BRIGHTEST  
OUT OF ALL  
OF US,

WHY DON'T  
YOU TRY  
TO LEAD THE  
INVESTIGATION?

WH...







AM I  
RIGHT?

EITHER WAY,  
THERE WAS  
NO REASON TO  
THROW THE  
RIFLE OUT  
THE WINDOW.



HOWEVER,  
THINGS GET  
CLOUDY WHEN  
WE TRY TO  
COME UP WITH  
A REASON FOR  
A DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE.

YEAH,  
THAT MUCH  
IS CERTAIN.



I GET  
WHAT YOU'RE  
TRYING TO  
SAY.



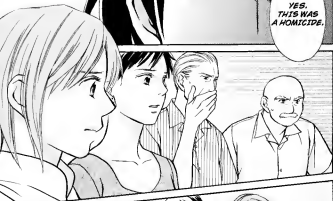
BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
MATCH UP.

I'VE ALSO  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT  
TOSHTAKE-  
SAN'S  
THEORY,

THERE WAS NO  
NEED FOR THEM  
TO USE THEIR  
REMAINING  
STRENGTH JUST  
TO CLOSE THE  
WINDOW.



YES.  
THIS WAS  
A HOMICIDE.



A black and white manga panel showing a group of people. In the foreground, a young man with glasses is looking towards the right. Behind him, a young woman with long, light-colored hair is looking towards the right. To the right, a young man with long hair is looking towards the right. A speech bubble from the man with glasses contains the text: "BY SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM."

BY SOMEONE  
IN THIS  
ROOM.

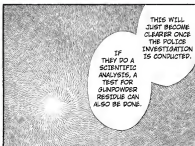




I'M  
GOING  
BACK TO  
MY ROOM.

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING,  
KAZUTO-  
KUN?

OKAY



IF  
THEY DO A  
SCIENTIFIC  
ANALYSIS, A  
TEST FOR  
GUNPOWDER  
RESIDUE CAN  
ALSO BE DONE.

THIS WILL  
JUST BECOME  
CLEARER ONCE  
THE POLICE  
INVESTIGATION  
IS CONDUCTED.



BOAMI-  
SAN,



I'M GOING  
TO RADIO  
THE POLICE  
AND TELL  
THEM WHAT'S  
HAPPENED.



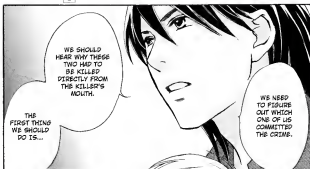
I KNOW  
THAT MEANS  
THERE MUST BE  
SOME SORT  
OF HIDDEN  
PASSAGEWAY TO  
THE ROOM THEN  
RIGHT?

THAT DOOR  
WAS LOCKED  
FROM THE  
INSIDE.

YOU DO  
UNDER-  
STAND THE  
DETAILS,  
RIGHT?













IT'S  
TOO BAD,  
BUT...

I DON'T  
REALLY KNOW  
WHO DID  
IT EITHER.

ALSO, EVERY  
BODY KNOWS  
ABOUT THE  
BOMBING CASE  
CHANGING THEM...

ALSO, EVERY  
BODY KNOWS  
ABOUT THE  
BOMBING CASE  
CHANGING THEM...



SO PRETTY  
MUCH  
EVERYONE  
HAD A CHANCE  
TO GET THEIR  
HANDS ON A  
DANGEROUS  
WEAPON.

FROM  
THAT POINT  
ON, ANYBODY  
COULD HAVE  
GONE TO  
THE ATTIC.

YESTERDAY,  
KAZUTO-SAN  
PUT THE  
RIFLE BACK  
IN THE ATTIC  
JUST BEFORE  
FIVE.



IF WE  
THINK  
ABOUT THIS  
DEEPER...

SO PRETTY  
MUCH  
ANYONE  
COULD HAVE  
GONE AND  
BROKEN  
THE...



AFTER  
THAT, I  
DIDN'T GO  
BACK TO  
MY ROOM  
ONCE.

IT WAS  
FINE UNTIL  
ABOUT 7  
O'CLOCK  
BEFORE  
DINNER.

SO WHO  
WAS IT THAT  
BROKE INTO  
KAZUTO-SAN'S  
ROOM AND  
BROKE THE  
RADIO?







IT'S ALREADY  
PAST FOUR.  
TAKING RYUSCHI-  
SAN'S ADVICE,  
WE ALL WENT  
TO BED.

THE LONG  
NIGHT OF  
OUR SECOND  
DAY HERE  
WAS FINALLY  
COME TO A  
CLOSE...



I'M GLAD  
THAT THE  
TYPHOON  
WAS  
CHANGED  
COURSE,  
BUT...

THIS  
ISN'T A  
SITUATION  
WHERE YOU  
CAN FEEL  
SAFE  
ANYMORE.



THE  
THIRD  
DAY



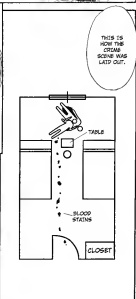


I'M CURIOUS  
AS TO WHY  
IT WAS LOCKED  
LAST NIGHT.

THIS LOCK  
IS PRETTY  
STURDY,  
JUST AS  
REIKO-SAN  
SAID.

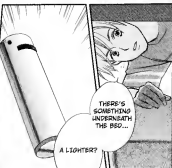
















LET'S GO  
TO THE  
VIEWING  
PLATFORM AND-

HMM?



SHALL  
WE STEP  
OUTSIDE AND  
THINK FOR  
A BIT?

EITHER  
WAY, IT  
DOESN'T  
SEEM TO  
BE OF ANY  
IMPORTANCE.



DO YOU  
MIND IF  
WE COME  
WITH  
YOU?  
WE  
WERE  
JUST ON  
OUR WAY  
OUT.

DO YOU  
MIND IF  
WE COME  
WITH  
YOU?

I'M  
PRETTY  
TIRED.

I'M GONNA  
HEAD BACK  
AND TRY  
TO GET  
SOME  
REST.

ARE YOU  
ABLE TO  
GO  
BACK TO  
GYORAKU  
PLACE,  
SENSEI?





TO THINK  
THAT SUCH  
A TRAGEDY,

COULD  
HAPPEN IN  
SUCH A  
BEAUTIFUL  
PLACE...

RIP YOU  
DISCOVER  
ANYTHING?

NOT REALLY,  
ALL WE FOUND  
WAS KANGO-  
SAN'S LIGHTER  
UNDERNEATH  
THE BED.

LOOKS  
LIKE YOU  
THREE WENT  
TO DO  
SOMETHING  
ON THE  
SECOND  
FLOOR.

...I WONDER  
WHAT THOSE  
TWO TALKED  
ABOUT THE  
MOMENT BEFORE  
THEY DIED...

WAS  
THE REASON  
SUMAKO-SAN  
LEFT HER  
HUSBAND'S SIDE  
TO GO  
UPSTAIRS,

BECAUSE  
SHE HAD TO  
DISCUSS  
SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT  
WITH HER  
FATHER?

THE LOAN  
MONEY  
THE LOAN  
MONEY...





I TOLD HIM  
I WANTED  
TO GO  
SWIMMING,  
BUT,

HE TOLD  
ME IT WAS  
TOO DANGEROUS,  
SO I GAVE UP  
ON THE IDEA.

HE TOOK  
ME OUT ON  
THE BOAT ONE  
TIME ON A  
MOONLET NIGHT.



BUT  
SUDDENLY,  
I REALLY  
WANT TO  
SEE THEM!

IF YOU'RE  
TIRED, THEN  
WE DON'T  
HAVE TO  
RIGHT  
NOW,



SURE,  
COME ON  
IN!

IS IT  
ALRIGHT IF  
WE COME  
INSIDE YOUR  
HOUSE?



SENSEI! IF IT'S  
ALRIGHT WITH  
YOU, WOULD YOU  
MIND SHOWING  
US YOUR  
PORTRAITS OF  
SUMAKO-SAN?

THE  
ONES IN  
YOUR  
HOUSE...

RIGHT NOW?  
I DON'T  
REALLY MIND,  
BUT-



NOT JUST  
ART,

I'M  
FASCINATED  
WITH WOMEN  
WHO HAVE  
NATURAL BEAUTY,  
JUST LIKE  
THIS ISLAND.

BUT IN  
THIS  
WORLD,  
THERE  
ARE LOTS  
OF STRANGE  
AND WONDERFUL  
THINGS THAT  
CAN TOUCH  
YOUR HEART.

THIS  
SOCIETY  
BUILT BY  
HUMANS WHO  
WILL DIE  
SOMEDAY...  
I'VE BEEN  
DISAPPOINTED  
IN IT EVER  
SINCE I WAS  
A CHILD.

AHH, I JUST  
WANT TO LIVE  
OUT THE REST  
OF MY LIFE,  
SURROUNDED  
BY SUCH  
BEAUTIFUL  
THINGS.

NAHRE TO  
HIM, ONE  
OF THOSE  
THINGS.

"IF THINGS WERE  
AS I WANTED,  
THEN I WOULDN'T  
HAVE COME."

WAS  
SUMMER-  
SAY...

IF I DIDN'T  
HAVE TO COME  
FROM TOYO  
TO LIVE  
IN THIS  
MISERABLE  
SHACK,

COULD I HAVE  
WON SOMEONE  
WAS, THOUGH  
I WOULD COME?

OH, WHAT  
A MISERABLE  
PLACE TO LIVE!

IS IT  
THAT  
SORT OF  
FEELING?

I USED TO  
READ A LOT  
OF MYSTERY  
NOVELS  
MYSELF.

YOU'RE ALL  
PART OF THAT  
MYSTERY  
NOVEL CLUB,  
RIGHT?

IS THAT A  
POEM FROM  
THE RUBIKIYAT?  
SONOBU-  
TANSEI KNOWS  
QUITE A FEW  
AS WELL.

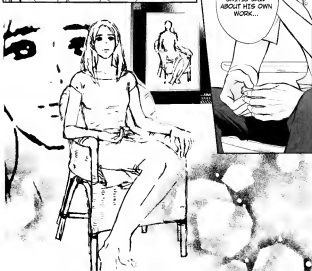
BECAUSE HE  
HAD INHERITED  
A VAST FORTUNE  
FROM HIS AUNT,  
HE SPENT HIS  
DAYS ABSORBED  
IN HIS HOBBIES,  
LEARNING AND  
ART.

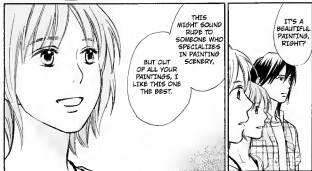
HE WAS A  
MAN WHOSE  
REFINEMENT  
HAD NO  
BOUNDS.

I WAS  
REALLY  
INTERESTED IN  
THE PHILLO  
VANCE DETECTIVE  
NOVELS BY  
VAN DINE.









THIS  
MIGHT SOUND RUDE TO  
SOMEONE WHO  
SPECIALIZES  
IN PAINTING  
SCENERY,  
BUT OUT  
OF ALL YOUR  
PAINTINGS, I  
LIKE THIS ONE  
THE BEST.



I GENTLY  
DECLINED.

THAT'S WHY,  
EVEN THOUGH  
I WAS ASKED  
TO HAVE IT  
DISPLAYED IN  
LOOKOUT MINOR.

THANK YOU.  
I TOO LOVE  
THAT  
PAINTING.



I JUST  
CAN'T LET  
GO OF THIS  
PAINTING.  
I WANT IT  
TO BE IN  
THIS HOUSE  
ALWAYS, NO  
MATTER WHAT.

*During this  
time, Sumi-  
san was...*

DO I  
WONDER HOW  
INTERESTING  
SERIOUSLY  
ABOUTHER?

SPARKLY  
INNOVATION  
RESEARCH  
CONCEAL...

AHH, I JUST  
WANT TO LIVE  
OUT THE REST  
OF MY LIFE,  
SURROUNDED  
BY SUCH  
BEAUTIFUL  
THINGS.

WAS SHE  
NOTHING  
MORE TO HIM  
THAN A PIECE  
OF ART?

I'D LIKE  
TO SEE  
THIS PICTURE  
AGAIN.

NOW, LET  
ME GET  
SOME REST.

I FEEL  
RATHER  
TIRED...



CHAPTER  
FOUR



SUMAKO-SAN  
AND KINGO-SAN...



I WONDER  
IF IT REALLY  
WAS A DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE,  
AFTER ALL...

HUM?



SPK-RUSHH



THE  
EXPRESSION  
ON SUMAKO-  
SAN'S FACE  
LOOKED SO  
PEACEFUL,

IF SHE WAS  
MURDERED,  
WOULDN'T IT  
BE FULL OF  
FEAR AND  
SHOCK?





WE'RE GONNA  
NEED MORE  
PROOF IN  
ORDER TO  
COMPLETELY  
RULE OUT  
A MURDER-

AH~



BUT IT  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN THAT SHE  
WAS JUST  
RELIEVED TO  
BE ABLE TO  
DIE NEXT TO  
HER FATHER.



SO WITH  
JUST THAT  
YOU'RE  
BRINGING  
BACK THE  
WHOLE  
DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE  
IDEA?

I MEAN,  
YOU COULD  
HAVE A  
POINT  
THERE,



...I CAN'T  
THINK OF  
ANYTHING.  
IT PROBABLY  
WAS A  
MURDER  
AFTER ALL.

UH-

I WONDER IF  
THERE WAS  
A REASON  
FOR THEM  
TO TAKE  
THEIR OWN  
LIVES.



IF IT WAS A  
MURDER, THEN  
WHO HAS THE  
WEAPON THAT  
WAS USED TO  
KILL THEM?



YOU IDIOT! WHY  
WOULD YOU SAY  
THAT? TO IMPLIE  
EVERYONE ON THIS  
ISLAND IS EITHER  
FAMILY OR  
CLOSE FRIENDS!

OF COURSE SHE  
WOULD RATHER  
THINK THAT WHAT  
WENT ON WAS A  
DOUBLE-SUICIDE  
RATHER THAN  
A MURDER!

**I'M  
SUCH  
AN  
IDIOT!**



BUT IF IT WAS JUST KANGO-SAN THAT WAS KILLED, THEN SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WITH THE RIFLE?



I'M NOT SURE.

WHY DID SOMEBODY HAVE TO KILL THEM?

I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS.



BUT DO YOU THINK IT WAS SO BAD THAT JUNJI-SAN WANTED TO KILL THEM?

IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE ON VERY GOOD TERMS.

AND BESIDES, THAT GUY REALLY LOVED SUMIKO-SAN.

I CAN'T IMAGINE HIM WANTING TO KILL HER...



ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT JUNJI-SAN?







MAYBE THE MURDERER  
THREW THE  
WEAPON OUT  
THE WINDOW  
INTO THE SEA  
IN ORDER TO  
DESTROY IT...

OR MAYBE  
THEY'RE STILL  
HIDING IT  
SOMEWHERE



EVEN THOUGH  
IT PROBABLY  
WAS JUST A  
DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE,  
DON'T GET  
AHEAD OF  
YOURSELF  
LIKE THAT!

AGAIN  
WITH THE  
DOUBLE-  
SUICIDE,  
BHP?

THAT  
MURDER!

DO YOU  
THINK THAT  
THEY'RE  
COMING  
AFTER YOU  
NEXT??



YOU'RE  
OVER-  
THINKING  
THIS,  
ALICE!

WAAAAH



I SAID  
I'M  
DONE!

AWW! C'MON  
MISS  
DETECTIVE!

HMM?



I'M DONE WITH  
THIS! I WAS  
JUST SAYING  
THINGS WHEN  
I SAID "IT MUST  
HAVE BEEN A  
MURDER AFTER  
ALL!"

YEAH!  
EVEN IF  
SOMETHING  
DID HAPPEN  
IN THAT  
ROOM,  
NOBODY  
WAS AROUND  
TO SEE IT,  
SO IN THE  
END WE JUST  
CAN'T KNOW!





THAT  
THESE MOAI  
HAVE PUT SOME  
SORT OF CURSE  
ON THIS ISLAND.



WELCOME  
B-U-G!

WE'RE  
HOME!

SENSEI,  
WHAT ARE  
YOU-



**DEEP IN  
THOUGHT**

BUT HE'S  
JUST  
BEEN LIKE  
THAT.

HE CAME  
HERE TO  
TAKE HIS  
MIND OFF  
OF THINGS...

I  
HAVE A  
FEELING...



THE YEAR  
AFTER THAT,  
SUMAKO-SAN AND  
HIRAKAWA-SENSEI  
DEVELOPED A  
STRANGE  
RELATIONSHIP,

AND THE  
YEAR AFTER  
THAT HIDETO-SAN  
DIED IN AN  
ACCIDENT WHILE  
SEARCHING FOR  
THE TREASURE.

HE DIED  
THE SUMMER  
AFTER THAT.

JUST AS  
IF HE WERE  
PLANNING HIS  
OWN DEATH...  
AFTER GRANDPA  
CALLED FOR THE  
PLANNERS AND  
LABORERS TO  
HAVE THESE MOAI  
SET UP ALL OVER  
THE ISLAND,



NOTHING  
BAD HAS  
HAPPENED  
THESE PAST  
TWO YEARS.

BUT THEN  
THIS WHOLE  
INCIDENT  
HAPPENS...



WHERE IS EVERYONE?

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY ALL JUST DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE.



HEY SUAMI-KUN, COME HERE AND GIVE ME A HAND.

SURE.



MY FATHER AND JUNJI-SAN ARE SHUT IN THEIR ROOMS.



INUKAI-SAN AND HIS WIFE JUST WENT BACK TO THEIR ROOM,

BUT THEY WERE HERE JUST READING AND LISTENING TO THE RADIO.

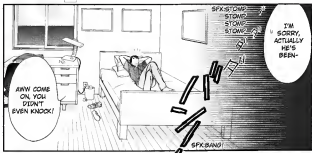


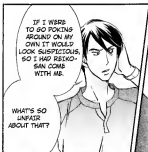
AND SENSEI-SAN'S JUST BEEN SITTING HERE LIKE THAT, SO THE GUY WHO HAS BEEN MOVING AROUND IS...

JUST KAZUTO-SAN, RIGHT?

WHAT IS THAT GUY DOING?











THAT'S RIGHT!

THEN WHO BROKE THE RADIO, AND WHY?

IF IT REALLY WAS A DOUBLE-SLICEIR,...

HEY MARIA, I FORGOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

WHAT?



ARE YOU TRYING TO BLAME US?

...BUT EGAMI-SAN MIGHT BE WRONG HERE.

AAAA, A HEAD-BOB!

ALL-WHOLE FORCE!

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU AND EGAMI-SAN DIDN'T NOTICE!

DANFET, I HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING!



THE ATTIC

HEY, SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE DOING UP HERE ANYWAYS?

GIANT MAZE



YOU WERE JUST GOING OFF WITHOUT LISTENING TO A WORD I SAID.

BACK ON THE HILLTOP WHEN YOU BROUGHT UP THE DOUBLE-SLICEIR AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GOING OFF?

ALL-AND-OTHERS WILSON TURN!







EVEN  
THOUGH IT'S  
SO PRETTY...



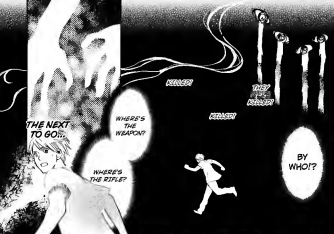
EVEN SO...



WHO WOULD'VE  
THOUGHT WE'D  
BE DOING  
FORWARD TO THE  
BOAT HOME SO  
MUCH...



THE SUN'S  
ABOUT TO  
SET...







I WONDER  
IF HIDETO-  
SAN WENT UP  
TO HEAVEN.

AFTER  
DROWNING  
IN AN OCEAN  
AS LONELY  
AS THIS...

IT'S SO  
SCARY THAT  
LIFE COULD  
COME TO AN  
END IN A PLACE  
LIKE THIS.

AS IF  
I'M BEING  
CARRIED  
AWAY TO  
THE LAND  
OF THE  
DEAD.



IT WOULD  
BE GREAT.

IF PEOPLE  
WHO DIED  
IN THIS  
LONELY OCEAN  
COULD GO TO  
HEAVEN.







ALICE,



WILL YOU  
TAKE ME  
OUT ON  
THE BOAT?



ON A  
MOONLIT  
NIGHT HE  
FOUND A  
BUTTON ON  
THE SHOES.

AND HE  
LOVED THAT  
THING SO  
MUCH THAT HE  
COULDN'T THROW  
IT AWAY



ON THIS  
MOONLIT NIGHT  
SHE WANTS ME TO  
TAKE HER OUT ON  
THE BOAT, WHICH  
MEANS...

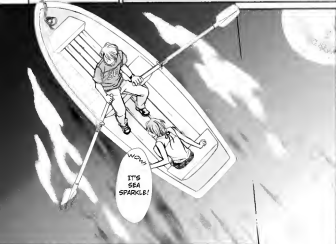


WELL  
I GUESS  
IT'S  
FINE.

I'LL LET  
YOU HAVE  
YOUR WAY  
THIS TIME.

SHE'S PROBABLY  
TRYING TO  
RELIVE HER  
MEMORIES WITH  
HIROTO-SAN...





EVEN NOW,  
YOU STILL  
SPEAK,

OF TRIVIAL  
THINGS AND  
SMALL CHATTER,

YET I SIT,  
AND I LISTEN,  
WITHOUT  
SAYING A  
WORD.

THE MOON  
SHINES  
OVERHEAD AS  
OUR LIPS  
TOUCH.

TO THOSE SMALL  
PAUSES BETWEEN  
YOUR WORDS.

OUT AMONG  
THE GENTLE  
WAVES AND  
SOFT WIND,

WHEN  
THE GIANT  
MOON FLOATS  
INTO THE SKY,  
LET'S TAKE OUR  
BOAT OUT TO  
MEET IT.

IT'S A  
SHIYA  
FROM  
"KRY"?

WHEN  
THE GIANT  
MOON  
FLOATS INTO  
THE SKY,



OUT AMONG  
THE DARKNESS  
OF THE OPEN  
SEA

THERE IS ONLY  
THE FAMILIAR  
SOUND OF WATER  
WHIPPING FROM  
THE OARS.

THE MOON  
DRAWS NEAR  
AND LISTENS  
CLOSELY.



BUT I  
DON'T STOP  
ROWING.



YOU'VE MADE  
ME ALL  
LIGHT-  
HEADED!

THANKS.

WOW,  
THAT'S  
AMAZING,  
ALICE!

YOU  
MEMORIZED  
IT JUST FOR  
A TIME LIKE  
THIS, DIDN'T  
YOU?

THAT'S



YOU  
HAD THE  
BEST  
CHOICE OF  
WORDS!

IF IT MADE  
MARIA SMILE,  
THEN IT MUST  
BE GOOD  
ENOUGH TO  
MAKE EVEN  
MEDUSA  
SMILE!

THAT WAS  
GOOD ENOUGH  
TO APPROACH  
A GIRL YOU  
LIKE WITH-



THAT'S THE  
SPOT WHERE  
WE FOUND  
HIDEITO-SAN.



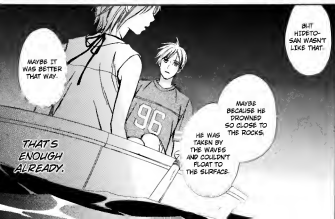
WHAT'S  
WRONG?



AND THEN  
WHEN GAS  
GATHERS IN  
THEIR BODY,  
THEY FLOAT TO  
THE SURFACE  
AND DRIFT  
RIGHT?

WHEN  
HUMANS  
DROWN, THEY  
FIRST SINK  
UNDER THE  
WATER.

HE WAS  
WASHED UP  
ON THOSE  
ROCKS.



MAYBE IT  
WAS BETTER  
THAT WAY.

THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
ALREADY.

BUT  
HIDEITO-  
SAN WASN'T  
LIKE THAT.

MAYBE  
BECAUSE HE  
DROWNED  
SO CLOSE TO  
THE ROCKS.

HE WAS  
TAKEN BY  
THE WAVES  
AND COULDN'T  
FLOAT TO  
THE SURFACE.



IT'S AS IF  
YOU'RE TRYING  
TO CALL BACK  
THE DEAD FROM  
THE DEPTHS  
OF THE OCEAN.

LET'S STOP  
TALKING  
ABOUT PEOPLE  
WHO HAVE  
DIED.

BECAUSE  
HE DIDN'T  
END UP  
BECOMING  
SOMETHING  
I COULDN'T  
LOOK AT.

THE LOOK  
ON HIS FACE  
WAS THE SAME  
AS ALWAYS.

JUST A LITTLE  
COLDER THAN  
USUAL.



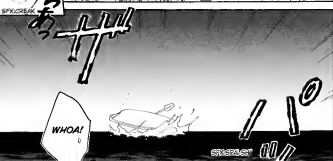
IT'S SURE  
WE'RE ON A  
BOAT HEADED  
TOWARDS THE  
ISLAND OF  
DEATH...

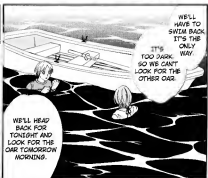


IT'S  
FINE, I'LL  
DO IT.

ALICE,  
I'LL ROW  
US  
BACK.













HEY-  
ALICE!  
DON'T LOOK  
THIS WAY!



HAHA  
IT'S KINDA  
LIKE ONE  
OF THOSE  
OCCULT MOVIES  
WHERE THE  
SEA MONSTER  
RISES FROM  
THE OCEAN  
...



AFTER A  
NIGHT LIKE  
THIS, I'M  
READY TO  
JUST FALL  
ASLEEP.

IT'S  
ABOUT  
TEN-  
SOMETHING.

NOT WEARING  
A WATCH!

I  
WONDER  
WHAT  
TIME IT  
IS...



JUST  
WALK IN  
FRONT,  
ALICE!

WELL,  
YOU'RE  
NOT SEE-  
THROUGH.

WELL,  
NOT  
ANYP.



IF I  
TELL THEM  
THAT I WAS  
ATTACKED AND  
THE BOAT  
CAPSIZED,

THEN  
NOBODY WOULD  
BELIEVE ME  
AT ALL!

96

I'M ASKING  
YOU NICELY,  
JUST SAY  
WHAT  
REALLY  
HAPPENED.

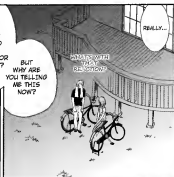
I WONDER  
WHAT  
PEOPLE WILL  
THINK WHEN  
THEY SEE  
US LIKE  
THIS...



SPKXOLION







EVEN NOW,  
YOU STILL  
SPEAK OF  
TRIVIAL THINGS  
AND SMALL  
CHATTER



YET I SIT,  
AND I LISTEN,  
WITHOUT  
SAYING A  
WORD.



BUT I  
DON'T STOP  
ROWING.

WHAT'S  
WRONG?

AH-

BUT I  
DON'T STOP  
ROWING.

I  
FORGOT  
THE BOAT  
SPIRIT...





"HARD ROCK LOVERS ONLY"  
CLASSIC MYSTERIES - CHAPTER 6  
SELECTED SHORT-MYSTERY PUBLICATION  
KODANSHA LIBRARY COLLECTION



# HARD ROCK LOVERS ONLY

ハードロック・ラバーズ・オンリー





HEH

HEH

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?  
DID YOU SEE  
YOUR FIRST  
LOVE FROM  
TEN YEARS AGO  
OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S  
FINE,  
BUT,





I DO,

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU.

BUT THERE WEREN'T MANY PEOPLE USING THEIR UMBRELLAS, AND ON TOP OF THAT, THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER PEOPLE WITH A RED UMBRELLA AROUND HER.



OH?

SHE FORGOT SOMETHING AND I WANTED TO GIVE IT BACK TO HER, THAT'S ALL.



THE LIGHT CHANGED, THAT'S ALL.

WELL, IT DID SEEM LIKE SHE WAS TRYING TO RUN AWAY AFTER HEARING MY VOICE,

THOUGH UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE.

WOULDN'T YOU THINK THERE WOULD BE A REASON FOR HER TO IGNORE YOU LIKE THAT?



BUT WE HAVE HAD A CONVERSATION BEFORE.

WE'VE ONLY MET ABOUT THREE OR FOUR TIMES,

BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD EACH OTHER'S VOICES.



SHE HADN'T HEARD MY VOICE BEFORE, SO,

SHE'S NOT AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS?



IT WAS  
THE MIDDLE  
OF MAY,  
SOMETIME  
BEFORE  
CLASS.

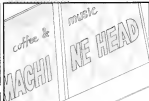
I WAS  
THINKING  
OF WAYS  
TO KILL  
TIME,

MUST BE  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
IN THE  
MYSTERY  
CLUB.

DON'T  
TALK  
NONSENSE  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN!



THIS IS  
PROBABLY  
ONE OF THOSE  
RUN-DOWN  
PLACES WITH  
HORRIBLE  
COFFEE...



AND THEN  
A STORE ON  
THE THIRD  
FLOOR OF  
THIS  
BUILDING  
CAUGHT MY  
EYE.



LOWES  
HARD  
ROCK  
↓

LOOKS  
GOOD TO  
ME!





IT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE...

SOMETHING'S  
EXPLODING!



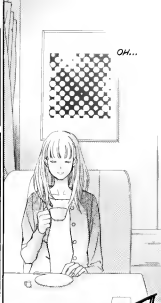
PLEASE COME  
IN

SHAKE

EVEN  
FROM  
OVER  
HERE...

SHAKE







DESPITE HOW SHE LOOKS ON THE OUTSIDE, SHE'S PROBABLY A HARD ROCK LOVER.



SFX: SCREECH

WHOA

EVEN MY COFFEE IS MOVING



STARE ☆



WAIT, WHAT'S SHE DOING?



SHE'S PROBABLY IN A BAND AS WELL...

LIVE WITH US!

SHE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT, THOUGH.













"Probably."



SO YOU'VE  
BEEN  
CARRYING  
AROUND THAT  
HANDKER-  
CHIEF WITH  
YOU THIS  
WHOLE  
TIME?



THE NEXT  
TIME WE  
MET WAS  
ABOUT TEN  
DAYS AGO.  
I HAD JUST  
CAUGHT HER  
ON THE WAY  
OUT.

IT WAS  
UNUSUALLY  
CROWDED, AND  
AS SHE LEFT, I  
SAW THAT SHE  
HAD FORGOTTEN  
SOMETHING ON  
THE TABLE...







LIKE IF IT  
WAS EVIDENCE  
FROM A CRIME  
SCENE OR  
SOMETHING

## THE MYSTERY DEEPENS...

SHE WOULD  
BE IN DANGER  
IF I RETURNED THE  
HANDKERCHIEF  
TO HER?

NEEDLESSLY?  
GET  
BACK  
HERE!



IT'S HIGHLY  
UNLIKELY THAT  
IT WAS A  
CURSED  
HANDKERCHIEF  
FROM A ROYAL  
FAMILY OR  
ANYTHING LIKE  
THAT.

HOWEVER, EVEN  
SOMEONE  
SHOUTING "HEY  
YOU WITH THE RED  
UMBRELLA!" SHOULD  
ELICIT AT LEAST  
SOME RESPONSE...

PERHAPS  
SHE WASN'T  
YET AWARE  
THAT HER  
HANDKERCHIEF  
WAS MISSING?

YEAH, THAT  
COULD BE IT.



ANOTHER  
EXPLANATION  
COULD BE...

THAT GIRL  
IS PROBABLY  
DEAF.



Hard rock  
lovers only  
"I like this  
place."

THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
IF SHE WAS  
DEAF,

THEN WHY  
WOULD SHE  
GO TO A  
CAFE THAT  
HAD SUCH  
LOUD MUSIC...



"Because I love  
hard rock."



SPKBOOM BOOM



SHAKE

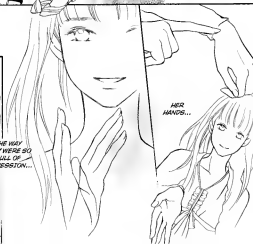
SHAKE

SHAKE

EVERY DAY  
COFFEE IN  
MORNING

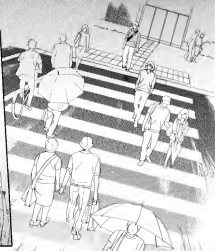


THE WAY  
THEY WERE SO  
FULL OF  
EXPRESSION...



HER  
HANDS...







AND PEOPLE  
WILL BE  
DRAWN TO  
THE THINGS  
THEY LOVE.

IS MUCH MORE  
FAST THAN  
I HAD EVER  
THOUGHT.



EVEN IF  
THE SOUNDS OF  
THE RAIN  
OF A NEW  
SEASON DON'T  
REACH HER,



I'M SURE A  
HARD ROCK  
LOVER LIKE  
HER CAN  
DEFINITELY  
HEAR IT.

THE  
BEAT OF  
JUNE...

HARD ROCK LOVERS ONLY **END**

## AFTERWORD

THE INSPIRATION FOR "KOTOU PUZZLE" COMES FROM THE SECOND VOLUME OF MY FIRST PUBLICATION, "GEKKOU GAME", WHICH DEBUTED IN 1989. THINKING ABOUT BACK THEN REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. I WAS SO EXCITED TO BE AN AUTHOR, AND I WOULD ALWAYS BE ABSORBED IN MY WRITING.

I BET SOME OF YOU ARE THINKING, "WAIT, IT CAME FROM SOMETHING THAT OLD?" WELL, HAVING READ THROUGH VOLUME ONE, HOW WAS IT? WHILE ON A TREASURE HUNT ON A TROPICAL ISLAND, A SERIAL KILLER APPEARS AND OUR HEROES MUST USE LOGIC AND REASONING TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE KILLER IS.

OF COURSE, A TALE LIKE THIS IS HARDLY SOMETHING NEW. FRANKLY SPEAKING, WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMETHING FROM THE AUTHOR'S EYES, IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE OLD. RATHER THAN BEING "OLD FASHIONED," IT'S MORE "CLASSIC".

NOVELS WHERE THE EMPHASIS IS ON FINDING THE KILLER (KNOWN AS CLASSIC MYSTERIES) GAINED POPULARITY IN AMERICA AND ENGLAND DURING THE 1920'S AND 1930'S. THIS PERIOD WAS KNOWN AS THE GOLDEN AGE, AND IT WAS A PRETTY LONG TIME AGO. SINCE THEN, EVEN TO THE PRESENT DAY, SEARCHING FOR A KILLER CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A FASCINATING SUBJECT, AND IT PROBABLY WILL FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

THESE TYPES OF STORIES, EVEN AS TIME PASSES, DO NOT GROW OLD-FASHIONED. THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR QUITE A WHILE, SO THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY GET ANY OLDER, AT LEAST IN MY OPINION. HOWEVER, IF WRITTEN POORLY, THERE IS A DANGER OF BORING THE READER.

WITH YUFUKO SUZUKI-SAN'S BEAUTIFUL ART, A TIMELESS TALE HAS BEEN REBORN, INTO A MANGA WITH TIMELESS VITALITY. AS THE AUTHOR, I AM ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED.

TO ALL OF OUR READERS, LET YOUR IMAGINATIONS FLY YOU TO THE SOUTH ISLANDS, WHERE I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE A THRILLING AND ENJOYABLE TIME.

